

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 08773 191022Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 /084 W  
-----056881 200234Z /75

R 181551Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL ACCRA 8773

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: UNGA SHUM GH  
SUBJECTC VOTES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HIGH COMMISSIONER

REF: (A) STATE 275441, (B) USUN 4673

1. POLOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT NOVEMBER 18 WITH ACTING DIRECTOR SEHKYIAMAH, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND LEFT AIDE-MEMOIRE AND TEXT OF RESOLUTION. SEHKYIAMAH SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH RESOLUTION FROM HIS DAYS AT GHANA'S UN MISSION AND EXPLAINED AT LENGTH WHY GHANA COULD NOT REPEAT NOT VOTE FOR IT. (DESPITE INFO TO THE CONTRARY IN REF B). GIST OF ARGUMENT

WAS THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO CREATE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS -- NEWLY DEVELOPED HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS AND OTHER MECHANISMS SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO GET OFF THE GROUND BEFORE MORE "RADICAL" STEPS TAKEN. SEHKYIAMAH INDICATED THAT CERTAIN FOES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, E.G., WERE LOOKING FOR CHANCE TO TORPEDO WHOLE EFFORT. UNLESS HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS A "GOD-LIKE" FIGURE WHO COULD COMMAND BROADLY-BASED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT, FOES MIGHT WELL ATTACK HIS ACTIONS AS REPRESENTING ONLY "EXTREMIST" VIEWS OF PRO-HUMAN

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RIGHTS STATES.

2. SEHKYIAMAH ALSO INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IF, CONTRARY TO HIS OWN EXPECTATIONS, A BANDWAGON GOT ROLLING AT UNGA FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, GHANA WOULD THEN REEVALUATE ITS POSITION AND PROBABLY GO ALONG. IN THE MEANTIME, HE CONCLUDED, GOG WOULD STUDY CLOSELY

BOTH TEXT OF RESOLUTION AND US VIEWS.

3. COMMENT: IF DECISION IS TAKEN TO LOBBY FOR THIS  
RESOLUTION, USUN MAY WISH TO PRESENT USG VIEWS TO  
VICTOR GBEHO, PRESENTLY HEAD OF GHANA'S UN DEL. IF DEMARCHE  
MADE, PLEASE LET US KNOW OUTCOME.

SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, POSITION AUTHORIZATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ACCRA08773  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 275441, 77 USUN NEW YORK 4673  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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